A Brand from the Burning

True Story of the Secret Service

By COL. H. C. WHITLEY, Former Chief United States Secret Service



of a bank note company, he affected sight of her. great surprise.

"An engraver? Indeed. Well, I am glad to know it. I want some work done in that line, but I was not certain where to apply. I am very particular about it, and would be willing to pay well for a good job."

What is the subject?" Sheldon in-

quired. "This," said the stranger, as he handed out the photograph of a pretty female face. "If it was nicely done what would it cost?"

"That depends on the fineness of the work. Anywhere from \$50 to \$200.

"The price is not so much an object with me as the quality of the work. I will pay liberally for a good job."

One hundred and seventy-five dollars was the sum finally agreed upon, When the engraving was completed and delivered the employer was so well pleased that he said he understood the price to be \$200, and insisted on paying that amount. Sheldon was afterwards supplied with a number of small jobs from the same source and was liberally paid for his work.

One day his patron suddenly broke out with the exclamation: "You are an excellent workman, and I are greatly surprised to see a man of your skill with the graver plodding along in this way when you could easily make your fortune in a short time if

you were so disposed." "How could it be done?"

"By making plates for bonds and money. You engrave the plates for certain persons. They pay you big money. You have nothing to do with the use they are put to."

This man who was adroitly tempting young Sheldon was the procurer, or to be more explicit, the capitalist of one of the most dangerous gangs of counterfeiters ever organized in this country. To Sheldon he was Mr. Devoe, but this was only one of the many names by which he was known to the different persons employed by him. He was the autocrat of all the counterfeiters and forgers of his day, and one of the few criminals that escaped physical punishment for their many misdeeds. He was discovered by the officers in the latter days of his life and it was a close race between them and the devil. The latter won. Devoe was a gifted manipulator of men, and he was successful in crazing Joung Sheldon's mind with visions of great riches. Sheldon quit the employ of the bank note company, and following Devoe's advice took lodgings inquisitive in regard to his business.

In the summer of 1871 a counterfeit \$10 treasury note made its appearance in most of the great cities of the couniry. To the untrained eve the note was a good fac-simile of the genuine. The lettering, the seal, the vignette and everything about it, except the eccentric lathe work, were quite perfect, but it was not difficult to discover by the use of a magnifying glass that the fine lattice lines were irregular. In the genuine these lines are made by machinery so perfect that it is impossible to imitate them by hand. A counterfeit note even to the practised eye may appear all right at a casual glance, but its base nature can be readily discovered by a careful exam-

ing ion of its eccentric lathe work. The note of which I speak was an excellent imitation, but it was early a young man of prepossessing appeardiscovered and its circulation checked. A this time the branch office of the government secret service of New York was being almost daily visited by persons offering information in regard from the people on the other side of to the various crimes against the gov- the wall that strange noises had been tale at prices ranging from one hunfred to a million dollars. The greater part of the informers were anxious to conceal their identity.

young woman. She came into the main | an upper window, and the shadows of bully velled and cautious in her man- The detective had slipped up to the she said she was quite unable to ren | (Copyright, by W. G. Chapman)

man. Ingenious course of her conversation she in-

company in the city of New York. Al- The conclusion I came to was that though conservative in many things, some of her family were in some way he was fond of display in dress and connected with counterfeiting and that the enjoyment of high living. He took she was seeking a way to check their restaurant. In the course of time he them from punishment. I questioned noticed that a seat on the opposite her carefully but was unable to gather side of the table at which he usually sufficient information to lead to anygenteel appearing middle-aged man. something worth looking after, but One day when there chanced to be did not know just how to get at it. no other persons sitting near, the When she left my office she was folstranger remarked that they ought to lowed by a detective, but the officer other. He then led the conversation giving himself away, as she repeatedin a manner to draw from Sheldon his ly turned around and looked about as that he was an engraver in the employ followed, and the detective finally lost

> Some weeks after this I received an ingular terms. It was in a fine fenale hand and read as follows: To the Chief of the Govt. Secret

Service, 56 Bleeker St.

Believing that confidential communi-

EORGE Sheldon ner. Her interview with me appeared front door and put his ear to the keywas an honest and to be more for the purpose of obtain- hole. He heard the clicking and was industrious young ing information than giving it. In the postere that it was a printing press in operation. For a time I was undeterand possessed of a quired as to the disposition of persons mined just what course to pursue. I good education, he arrested for counterfeiting and the re- finally concluded to employ a ruse to had acquired high sults of confessions, etc. She hinted get into the house and learn what was excellence in the of a counterfeiting scheme, but she going on. An excuse that was thought practise of the en- either did not know or was unwilling to be better than no excuse at all was to give any definite information. I invented to be offered in case of fail-In the winter of 1869 and '70 he finally drew from her that she might ure. It was known that the doors of was employed to do government plate be able to find out something that the house were kept securely fastened work by a large bank note engraving would be of service to the government. and that any person ringing the door bell would be sighted and refused admittance.

The plan to overcome this difficulty was simple but effective. It was about his dinners at a fashionable uptown operations and at the same time save the middle of the day when a light spring wagon containing a trunk was backed up to the front door of the Rhetschlag house. Two men dressed dined was regularly occupied by a thing tangible. I thought there was as laborers took the trunk out of the wagon and carried it up the steps close to the door. The bell was rung. Soon there was an eye at the peephole. The person thinking that the exbecome better acquainted with each was unable to shadow her without pressman had made a mistake in the house threw open the door to explain. The trunk was quickly thrust across name and business. When he learned though she suspected she was being the threshold and the two expressmen sprang into the hall. Two other detectives that had been hovering near were also admitted. Almost at the first anonymous note couched in somewhat glance I discovered that the young woman tending the door was the one paralyzed with blank despair. The that had called at the secret service office and vaguely hinted of a great pleaded with him to tell the truth. He counterfeiting scheme. I think the recognition was mutual. She bowed cations may be addressed to you with slightly in a half welcoming way as out fear of exposure, I have deter- she placed her hand upon the stair



light of a fond home and endearing associations to end in a felon's cell, possibly in a felon's grave. To demonyourself."

It was a house that had long been considered undestrable, and located upon a fashionable street, that was at a house where the people were not only a weak suspicion, but yet I nine this evening.—Sheldon." thought it sufficiently pointed to warrant an investigation. It was soon rather comely appearing young woman. In their coming and going they of a great crime that had once been

committed within its walls: The Rhetschlags, as they were No one seemed to know where they came from or by what means they that any person had been seen to enter their door during the day time. While the detectives were on watch sions in the evening, remaining a a small bundle. It was also learned thought there might be something ture was found. wrong, and that was all the thought On one particular occasion my office they gave to the matter. Each night his mouth tightly and shook his head approval, in fact I was commended for was visited by a genteel appearing a bright light was seen gleaming from to every question asked, and the it. So far as I know Sheldon has office and requested a private inter- persons moving to and fro were cast While the woman did not appear to be ever violated the pledge he gave me, view with the chief. She was care upon the closely-drawn window shade. anxious to conceal anything from us, I have not heard of it.

note may form an important leaf in He had probably been taking a nap the history of a life begun in the love- from which he was suddenly roused. I caught a glimpse of a piece of paper as he swiftly put it in his mouth. Springing forward I seized him by the strate the truth of what I say, go to throat. The young woman came to my others. Young Rhetschlag plead cut half inch wide and not too long, - St., and examine for assistance. She put her hand to the guilty and was sentenced to the peniold man's lips and said: "Spei es aus, vater! Spei es aus, vater!"

He yielded and she handed me a bit

of one of the officers. The young womlearned that this house was occupied an now accompanied us upstairs and several dangerous counterfeiters. He by an elderly gentleman, annarently a led us to a door that was locked. Russian or German, a tall young man The key was turned from the inside. of twenty-five or thereabouts, and a An entrance was demanded, but there was no response. Deliberating a few moments, the officers rushed against The bank note company was only too appeared much like other people. This the door and burst it open. We found particular house, however, had long a young man in the room. There was the fact he had been engaged in counbeen pointed out and stared at because a printing press, a quantity of printer's ink, a long table, a couple of known, were a very secluded family. to show that counterfeiting was being him in a way to redeem himself, was carried on. There was plenty of sus- anxious to marry him. The consummapicion, but we were unable to find eviearned their livelihood. It was rare dence to warrant a conviction. One ditions of his release. It might have of the detectives chanced to put his hand on the stove. It was hot. On out all right. A wedding soon follooking inside we discovered that a lowed. considerable amount of paper had been ance called at the house on two occa- recently burned. A systematic search of the premises was now began. Every short time. When he left he carried nook and corner of the house was examined. We tore up the carpet and pried up the weak places in the floor. Every piece of furniture and every rag terfeiter named Sheldon, and sugernment. There were many secrets, heard late at night. There was a of clothes was searched. The detecsuspicions and surmises offered for clicking and jarring sound as of tives crawled under the roof and on some one pounding upon the floor with | top of it. They looked down the chima heavy instrument. The neighbors neys. Nothing of an incriminating nathe capture and release of Sheldon,

am sure will be valuable. This brief | stepped into the hall from a side room.

The old man was placed in charge

der any further assistance. We were bout to give up in despair and leave he house when one of the detectives, nore suspicious and hopeful than any of the others, remarked: "There is only one place left. Let us try that langing lamp."

Taking it down, we unscrewed the op. Here to our great relief we ound several thousand dollars in counterfeit \$10 bills. They were newly rinted. The old man now broke down nd the woman began to cry. Sae said he had been working under orders rom her father, but knew little of what was going on. She was sure that counterfeit money was being made here, but she did not know what was one with it. She was also aware that her lover was mixed up in the scheme. She was between the devil and the deep sea and was at a loss what course to take, but had finally concluded to become an informer. I was satisfied I had obtained the

oottom facts so far as the woman was concerned and that Sheldon, who was expected there that evening, would bring the back of the counterfeit. The father and brother had been doing the printing. If the old man now told me the truth, they had never been engaged in selling or passing the bogus stuff. They were not trusted with both of the counterfeit \$10 plates at the same time. When the face of the note was finished the plate for printing the back was brought and the face plate taken away. Sheldon was the man that brought the plates and took away the counterfeits. The young woman had assisted in these operations to a certain extent, but she had been doing this under pressure. She had now informed the officers and chanced the result.

The door bell was rung promptly at nine o'clock and Sheldon was admitted. When he was confronted with the situation, he wilted and staggered to a seat. His every faculty seemed woman threw her arms about him and now became greatly excited and declared in a trembling voice that he would make a clean breast of the whole affair and take what was coming mined to give you information that I rail. An elderly man at this moment to him. I listened to the recital of his story. It was the counterpart of the others. He hoped for wealth and a life of ease. It was an unhealthy longing, but the opportunity was so plausibly presented to him by the oilytongued Devoe that he sacrificed his manhood and yielded to the tempter. Once within the hypnotic influence of this great procurer he was compelled to do his bidding. Now that he knew the worst he felt relieved. With a curl of his lip and a sudden elevation of his head his eyes met mine as he gave me

fear the squealer more than they do the detectives. In fact, it would be quite impossible to destroy a well-or- ductions. ganized gang of counterfeiters without to act upon my own judgment. We arrested the counterfeiters without process of law, and used them to the best possible advantage to the government. The records of the secret service of the treasury department, will, if examined, show that the system of using one counterfeiter against another was successful. When a confederate who has for years been associated with others in crime, is made to confess and assist the government, he is more dreaded by his associates than any other force that can be employed.

Counterfeiting combines the worst features of fraud interwoven with the most cunningly devised modes of escape. The confederate is better booked and more fully equipped to un-

I mention these facts that the reader may better understand the object or a mattress one-with rag fugs in had in view in this case as in most tentiary. His father was old and feeble. Upon his promise that he would never again engage in counterfeiting. of closely folded paper. On it was I paroled him. The young woman had it!" thus brought to my attention. It was written: "I will bring the back at rendered good service and I did not attempt to hold her or to use her as a witness. Sheldon made important disclosures that enabled me to arrest was weak and easily persuaded, but after using him on the witness stand against his confederates I did not think him dangerous to go at large. glad to employ him notwithstanding terfeiting, Besides, Miss Rhetschlag, who had been so prominent in assistchairs and a stove. But there was not ing in bringing young Sheldon upon a scrap of paper in sight, nor anything the stool of repentance, and putting tion of this I made as one of the conbeen a little out of order, but it turned

I some time afterward received from Mr. Routwell, the secretary of the treasury, a letter saying that he had been informed that a certain engraving company doing government work, had in its employ a dangerous coungested that I attend to this matter at once. In reply to the secretary's letter I gave him a detailed account of together with my reasons for the The old man wouldn't talk. He shut same. My course met the secretary's young man was dumb as an oyster. since led an honest life. If he has



FROM

ECCLESIASTICAL STYLES AND THE CLOCHE HAT.

Paris Takes Millinery Inspiration From Bishop's Cap or Mitre-Means Greater Number of Small Hats-Thanks.

Paris seized upon the idea of Reboux, who was among the first, if not the first, of the great designers who borrowed a millinery inspiration from the church. And the Reboux word is law; there is no going behind that. Some whisperings as to the good



his promise to surrender the counter- taste of copying the bishop's cap or felt plates and to aid the government the mitre for the head of frivolous by every means within his power, beauties may have been passed All classes of confederated criminals around, but they failed to disturb the clever designers, busy with the new ideas, or the popularity of her pro-

The ecclesiastical colors-"prelat," using one man against the other. For "eveque" and "abbe"-which were so this reason I never hesitated while successful in the beginning of the fur are trimmed with violet plumage thief of the government secret service season, paved the way for these and are exquisite in tone. Mole shapes, and the chances are the fad bags for second mourning have gunis not a passing one and that we shall | metal frames which are almost exsee this idea triumphing in spring mil- actly of the same shade as the fur.

CHURCH linery. Let us be thankful therefor, for it means a greater number of small hats.

The cloche (bell-shaped) hats are undoubtedly smart and have one saving grace stronger than any other millinery virtue. They cover the forehead in such a way as to make the wearer look considerably younger than her years. Not even the eyesbrows are left uncovered, and a porjecting mist of fluffy hair helps along the good cause in many instances.

Never has a season brought a greater number of new concelts in millinery. New collapsible hats, new shapes, new materials or those with which we are familiar used in new ways. But these innovations are charming. No one will quarrel with the prior's cap of velvet with floral motif and tassel in gold. The original from Reboux was made in a deep rich tone of "prelat" velvet. It is a beautiful piece of workmanship. The seams are joined by pipings of satin and it is very becoming. When you add to this the fact that it may be folded up, as flat as a folding box, and tucked away in a hand bag or laid on the bottom of a trunk tray, you can see that we are progressing to new conditions in the matter of headwear. JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

The Wedding Veil.

From time to time attempts are made to banish or supersede the wedding veil; but, in spite of all objections, it still persists in the favor of the bride, who is apt to be sentimental rather than reasonable. The way of wearing it, however, has been largely changed; many brides now wear the veil as a sort of cap, not falling over the fact at all, but fastened back with a circlet of flowers. In front it reaches only to the knees, but in the back to well below the ankles.

Tulle, except for those who have rare and beautiful old lace, is succeeding lace in favor; perhaps because there is no danger of having part of the design ornament one's nose or eye! A soft tulle vell, properly draped, fastened by invisible pearl-headed pins and falling over a coronet of jewels or of blossoms, is as pretty a sight as any wedding guest could hope

For Second Mourning,

Moleskin is one of the furs worn for second mourning. Hats of this

Puckering Can Be Avoided by Working Stitches Loosely-Pretty Effects Possible.

"Handsomer than booked, crocheted or woven rugs!" This was the exclamation that sent the eyes of all the club to Mrs. Brown's new burlap rug. And it really was a beauty.

"It was really very easy," said little Mrs. Brown, with a pretty blush; "I just cut out a square of blue burdertake the unearthing of a gang of lap the size I wanted, and then I drew counterfeiters than the best trained on it with crayon a close design of scrolls and spirals. Then I threaded a tape needle-a carpet needle will do two shades of blue. These strips I so that they should not get twisted. Across the width of the rug I sewed these just as close together as possi-And that was all there was to

> "Won't the burlap pucker?" asked anxious Mrs. Green.

> "Oh, no," said Mrs. Brown, "not if you are careful to work your stitches loosely. That is the secret of success in the making of burlap rug."

And that she had mastered her secret we all agreed.

Japanese Red Gowns.

The touch of scarlet or red is a dommant novelty in the winter frocks. But if one is to attain smartness one must be careful in choosing the shade of red that is to be used. The correct tone is called Japanese red, and is the red used in Japanese embroideries. It is seen in several shades in the brick tones

This red is merely used as a touch, in pipings, or in a single flower on gowns and muffs and stoles. But a daring use of it was made in an evening gown which achieved success by two veilings of Japanese red being used, the darker shade over the light-

Home-Made Trimmings.

All the beautiful oriental trimmings so fashionable nowadays are ruinously expensive, but there is hope still for the impoverished. Buy a few inches of the trimming desired and use it as a pattern to make your own. Braid the bands in soutache, then in the center of the flower design sew glass jewels. Through the pattern make small French knots of gold thread. The effect is lovely-and

SECRET OF THE BURLAP RUG | WASHING PUFFS IN BENZINE

Simple Precautions Which at Least Can Do No Possible Harm. If Observed.

The elaborate false coffure of the modern woman has caused much anxlety, and many learned opinions have been forthcoming as to its danger. We are told that not only is the wearing of false hair destruction to the health of the natural hair, but that it is also a medium for the conveyance of dire dis

Hideous things are told of "rats" and their origin, of Chinamen and their pigtails, until one loathes the sight of a pompadour. Yet for truth's sake we must take all this hysteria about false hair with more than a grain of salt.

The best hairdressers will tell you that the lovely rows of empire puffs and Grecian curls, of braids and fringes, of transformations and twists, are as hygienic as they are charming. The explanation that collectors are engaged in various parts of Europe to obtain these luxuriant tresses from women who are more in need of money than of hair has the hallmark of truth. It is a far cry to Canton and the Chinaman's pigtail, while the luxuriant peasant tresses of Europe are close at

But the woman whose doubts do not prevent her craving curls and clusters may reassure herself by giving them a benzine bath before using thus preparing them to rest side by side with her own healthy, though scanty locks, without flying too fiercely in the face of hygienic principles.

Sewing Heavy Linen.

Heavy fabrics, linen especially, are very hard to sew even when they are new. Any one who has done much hemming of napkins, towels and tablecloths does not need to be told this. This stiffness may be overcome and the work made much easier by keeping at your side a glass of warm water and dipping your fingers into it as you work. The linen is then softened.

To Brighten Old Gilt.

Old gilt, such as the gilded frames of chairs or old picture frames and mirrors, if they do not require regilding entirely, may be brightened by using an excellent mixture of three ounces of white of egg and an ounce of chloride of potash or soda. This should be painted over the surface with a feather or a water-color paint